

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

June 20, 1980

Diamond Head Oil, Kearny, New Jersey

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Emergency Response & Hazardous Materials Inspection Branch

File

On June 17, 1980, Mike Polito and I walked the Diamond Head facility and surrounding properties. It was my interest to finally see the site after several incidents including one during the prior week. I specifically was interested in viewing any potential route for oil from the site to enter waters of the United States.

On this visit there was no evidence of oil discharging to waters of the United States. The most feasible route for oil to leave the site at the surface and flow to waters of the United States appeared to be one requiring flooding of the site and spilling onto Harrison Avenue into a storm sewer and then into tributaries to Frank's Creek.

Previously, a pipe existed in the vicinity of the Diamond Head site which facilitated a discharge to waters of the United States. That pipe was a temporary connection because of DOT construction (according to Mike) and no longer exists. Movement of oil off the property in this fashion appears unlikely.

At the base of one of the large swales on State property I observed what appeared to be stains associated with sheen in the drainage ditch (which does not discharge).

Ground saturation was evident on the Diamond Head site.

Conclusion: The Diamond Head property does not pose a substantial threat of discharge of oil to the waters of the United States at this time although severe flooding may result in some discharge. The dispute between NJ and the property owners is complicated and not one which EPA can readily solve. The State is seeking to resolve the matter in court and this should provide an appropriate forum for the dispute.

See John Burger Report dated 10/3/79.

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CONCURRENCES

SYMBOL	SA/ERHMIB						
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